



VCH Oxfordshire Texts in Progress

Kiddington with Asterleigh parish

Religious History



Kiddington church from the south-west

Until the mid 15th century Kiddington comprised the two separate ecclesiastical parishes of Kiddington and Asterleigh, each of which had its own independent church. The two were combined in 1466 when Asterleigh's endowments were transferred to the rector of Kiddington, and Asterleigh church was demolished probably before the Reformation. Kiddington remained an independent rectory thereafter, until united with the neighbouring benefices of Glympton and Wootton in 1990. Roman Catholicism (focused on a private chapel in the manor house) remained a notable feature from the Reformation until the early 19th century, although the majority of parishioners conformed, and Kiddington's Catholic lords also maintained a stake in the parish church. Protestant Nonconformity surfaced only briefly during the 19th century.

Church Origins and Parochial Organization

Both Kiddington and Asterleigh churches existed by the late 12th century, founded probably by their respective lords; the advowsons descended with the manors, and Kiddington church (which retains some 12th-century fabric) immediately adjoins the manor house, as may have also been the case at Asterleigh. By the 13th century both were independent rectories with

their own endowments,¹ notwithstanding Asterleigh's nominal subjection to Heythrop, which claimed burial rights and mortuary dues and a 4s. annual payment.² The connection presumably arose from Kiddington's and Heythrop's pre-Conquest tenorial links,³ but in reality burials were allowed so long as Heythrop received the dues, and when Asterleigh church was decommissioned in 1466 the remaining inhabitants were required to maintain the churchyard fence to prevent burials from being profaned.⁴ The parishes were most likely divided (like the manors) by the River Glyme, thus bringing Over Kiddington into Asterleigh parish;⁵ that was included in Chipping Norton rural deanery, whereas Kiddington lay within that of Woodstock.⁶ Kiddington church's dedication to St Nicholas (the same as Heythrop's) is recorded from 1380, and Asterleigh's (to St Peter) from 1415.⁷

The parishes' unification in 1466, prompted by Asterleigh's partial depopulation, transferred all of Asterleigh church's endowments and responsibilities to the rector of Kiddington, including its tithes:⁸ a later conception that Asterleigh farm was tithe-free seems to have arisen from misunderstandings in the wake of long-term 17th- and 18th-century tithe compositions.⁹ The unification left the whole of the new combined parish in Woodstock deanery,¹⁰ and thereafter, although it was held with nearby Wootton from 1953, Kiddington remained an independent rectory until 1990, when its benefice was combined with those of Wootton and Glympton. The ecclesiastical parishes were united in 2003, the joint incumbent living (as earlier) in Wootton.¹¹

Advowson and Endowment

Kiddington's and Asterleigh's advowsons descended with their respective manors throughout the Middle Ages,¹² presentations being made by the lords and occasionally by those granted

¹ Below (advowson and endowment; relig. life; church archit.).

² *Rot. Welles*, I, 23; *Tax. Eccl.* 32 (which brackets the churches together but mentions no payments).

³ Above, landownership; cf. *Feudal Aids*, IV, 201; VI, 380.

⁴ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, f. 83v.

⁵ Above, landscape etc. (boundaries); landownership.

⁶ e.g. *Tax. Eccl.* 31–2, 41. Heythrop was also in Chipping Norton deanery.

⁷ *The Register of Simon Sudbury, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1375–81*, ed. F. Donald Logan (Cant. & York Soc. 110, 2020), p. 91; Lincs. Arch. REG/14, f. 402. A will of 1562 (exceptionally) gives Kiddington's dedication as St Peter, presumably in error, although Kiddington's parish wake was held the Sunday after the feast of St Peter in the 1780s: OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 184.53; Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 1.

⁸ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, ff. 82v.–83v. (summarized in Warton, *Kiddington* (1815 edn), 24–6).

⁹ Below (endowment).

¹⁰ e.g. *Valor Eccl.* II, 164.

¹¹ Below (relig. life); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2078/2, Orders in Council 7 June 1990, 27 Feb. 2003.

¹² e.g. *Rot. Welles*, I, 22–3; *Rot. Gravesend*, 224; Lincs. Arch. REG/20, ff. 231, 233 and v., 242v.–243; cf. above, landownership.

custody.¹³ The manors were held together from the late 13th century, and after 1466 patrons presented to Kiddington church only.¹⁴ Elizabeth I presented in 1581 perhaps because of the Babington family's Catholic connections, and in 1609 Henry Babington, who had sold the manor two years earlier, unsuccessfully presented a candidate at the same time as the new lord the earl of Montgomery.¹⁵ Montgomery's successors the Brownes experienced intermittent difficulty exercising the advowson as Roman Catholics,¹⁶ and sometimes arranged substitutes: Henry Moore of Nether Kiddington presented one of the Browne family by grant of a turn in 1611, and Peter Browne's father-in-law Henry Knollys presented in 1639, although Browne lords presented in person in 1613 and 1687. By 1730 the patron was Robert Buswell of Westcot Barton (who presented a relative), and by 1760 the advowson had been acquired by the earl of Lichfield, descending until the 20th century with his Ditchley Park estate.¹⁷ A presentation by the owner of Ditchley in 1790 was at the 'nomination' of Kiddington's Catholic owner Lady Mostyn,¹⁸ and as late as 1953 Oxford University presented ostensibly under 17th- and 18th-century legislation circumscribing Catholic presentations, presumably following an amicable agreement. In 1963 the 20th Viscount Dillon (whose family had by then sold the Ditchley estate) conveyed the advowson to the bishop of Oxford, who remained a joint patron of the united benefice after 1990, holding the second turn in a sequence of four.¹⁹

In 1291 Kiddington and Asterleigh rectories were valued at £4 6s. 8d. a year each, derived from glebe and tithes.²⁰ In 1526 (after the rectories were combined) the rector's income was reckoned at £10 and the curate's salary at £5, although nine years later the rectory was valued at only £7 9s. 4½d. a year clear.²¹ By the early 17th century the combined glebe comprised four yardlands (c.115 a.) scattered through the open fields, two yardlands lying in Nether Kiddington and two in Over Kiddington. The latter presumably represented much of Asterleigh's former glebe, although an exchange with the lord William Babington c.1558–9 had reportedly left the rector with poorer-quality and more distant strips than earlier, and had also given the lord ownership of several small closes in Asterleigh itself,

¹³ e.g. Leon. Hakelyt (Kiddington), Peter de la Mare and poss. Ralph Arches (Asterleigh): Lincs. Arch. REG/10, ff. 363v., 369, 373; REG/14, f. 402.

¹⁴ Above, landownership; Lincs. Arch. REG/20, f. 243; REG/22, f. 232v.

¹⁵ *Cal. Pat.* 1580–2, p. 126 (wrongly indexed as Cuddington, Bucks.); <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk> (accessed July 2024). The lord and patron Phil. Babington (d. 1606) seems not to have been Catholic, although his stepmother Lady Mgt certainly was: below, relig. life. (Rom Cath.).

¹⁶ e.g. OHC, B.I/51A (legal advice 1657).

¹⁷ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk> (accessed June 2024); below, Spelsbury, landownership.

¹⁸ Oxf. Jnl Syn. 10 Nov. 1790.

¹⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, presentation Mar. 1953; c 1873, deed of gift 14 Feb. 1963; c 2078/2, Order in Council 7 June 1990.

²⁰ *Tax. Eccl.* 31–2, 41; *Nonarum Inquisitiones*, 138, 140. Cf. Lunt, *Val. Norw.* 307, 311 (£3 6s. 8d.).

²¹ *Subsidy* 1526, 266; *Valor Eccl.* II, 184.

including the former churchyard.²² An exchange with the lord Henry Browne in 1686 was in preparation for Browne's enclosure of the open fields,²³ which left the rector with c.80 a. mostly concentrated around the rectory house. An outlying field barn and cottage were built c.1840, and were expanded by the 1880s into a larger homestead called Rectory Farm.²⁴

The 1686 agreement also established a composition by which Henry Browne paid the rector £53 a year for the parish's tithes, excluding those from the glebe, the mill, and some small pieces owned by the lord of Glympton.²⁵ Later compositions (and possibly the 1686 one too) also included the glebe, and by 1823 Charles Browne Mostyn paid the rector £375 a year for the land and tithes combined, placing Kiddington amongst the county's better-off benefices.²⁶ By then the long-term compositions seem to have created a misconception that Asterleigh farm was tithe-free and probably extra-parochial, a view which was challenged by the rector in the run-up to tithe commutation. Lawyers for the new lord Mortimer Ricardo won their case after demonstrating that Asterleigh had paid no poor rates for over 40 years and that its tithes had been excluded from the 1823 composition, leading to a formal ruling by the tithe commissioners in 1850. The resulting tithe rent charge of £403 4s. a year (plus £24 12s. for glebe tithes when the glebe was rented out) consequently omitted Asterleigh farm's 284 a. altogether.²⁷ In 1886 the rector's average net income was still reckoned at c.£375, but in 1905 at only c.£275, while the glebe itself was valued at £80 a year in 1929 and £92 in 1947.²⁸ The land was later sold.²⁹

Rectory House The rector of Asterleigh presumably had a house near Asterleigh church, but no details are known. The rector of Kiddington's house was mentioned in 1272,³⁰ and though 'ruinous' c.1520 it was in good repair in the 1630s, when it contained ten bays of building with a garden, farmyard, barn, stable, and other outhouses. Individual rooms may have included a hall, parlour, and buttery, all with chambers above.³¹ Then and probably

²² OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, nos. 12a–e (terriers 1601 and 1635). As the exchange was with Morgan Phillips (rector 1543–59) it must have been in 1558–9 just after Babington inherited.

²³ OHC, QSD/E/I, pp. 103–4 (reciting indenture 15 Feb. 1685/6); above, econ. hist. (agric.).

²⁴ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 449, no. 3; *ibid.* QS1842/1/A9/1, plan; *ibid.* 234/A and 234/M; OS Map 1:2500, Oxon. XXI.7 (1881 edn); R.P. Norwood, *History of Kiddington* (1934), 22.

²⁵ OHC, QSD/E/I, pp. 103–4.

²⁶ TNA, IR 18/7727, draft mins 2 Aug. 1848 (reciting 1823 composition); *Oxon. Atlas*, p. 133. Cf. OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2202, no. 30; D. Fairer (ed.), *The Correspondence of Thomas Warton* (1995), p. 320 (£120 in 1772); Leics., Leicester and Rutland RO, DG39/1723 (£240 in 1807).

²⁷ TNA, IR 18/7727; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 2202, no. 30; *ibid.* 234/A and 234/M; *Oxf. Jnl*, 26 July 1817. Some other farms were evidently let tithe-free: e.g. *Oxf. Jnl*, 2 Sept. 1815.

²⁸ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1886), 582; (1907), 1814; (1929), 953; (1947), 1355.

²⁹ *Sale Cat., Glympton Park Estate* (1988): copy in OHC, SC243.

³⁰ Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, p. 67.

³¹ *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 129–30; OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, no. 12; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 115/3/6 (describing either Kiddington rectory ho. or Steeple Barton vicarage ho.).

earlier it occupied its later site in Nether Kiddington, fronting Barton Lane c.370 yds east of the church, near the driveway to Kiddington Hall.³² As rebuilt by the rector John Roberts between 1790 and 1805 it comprised a three-bay house of stone and slate, with drawing and dining rooms flanking a south-facing central entrance, a study, pantry, and kitchen behind, and a scullery and larder in an outshut, supplemented by cellars, three or four first-floor bedrooms, and three attic garrets. Outbuildings, arranged around a farmyard to the north, included barns, stabling, cowhouses, pigstyes, and (on the east) a range containing a dairy and a former kitchen with servants' accommodation above, the kitchen adapted for baking, brewing, and washing. A rickyard, kitchen garden, and small orchard lay further north again.³³

By T.F. Burra's appointment in 1877 the house needed repair and was thought 'inconvenient' and 'badly arranged'. The following year it was drastically enlarged and remodelled to designs by E.G. Bruton, who created an irregular five-bay entrance front with windows in ashlar surrounds, the main doorway and porch on the right, and a gabled attic over the two left-hand bays. The interior was expanded and reordered incorporating new services at the rear, a rounded bay window on the west, and a new bathroom on the first floor. The £815 cost was met from £192 dilapidations obtained from the previous rector's representatives, and a loan from Queen Anne's Bounty.³⁴ Further small improvements were made in 1924 and 1940, but from 1953 the rector lived in Wootton, and the house was sold.³⁵



Kiddington rectory house, enlarged and remodelled in 1878 to designs by E.G. Bruton. Dormers and decorative timberwork have since been removed.

³² Ibid. MS Oxf. Dioc. c 449, no. 3; *ibid.* 234/A and 234/M. The 1635 site description fits the later evidence.

³³ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 449, no. 3; c 2202, no. 30; c 1873, bldg plans (1878); *ibid.* 234/A and 234/M.

³⁴ Ibid. MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1873, incl. bldg plans and specs; *ibid.* POX0193725 and POX0560834, showing dormers and decorative timberwork since removed. The builder was R. Franklin of Deddington.

³⁵ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1873, mortgage deeds; below (relig. life).

Religious Life

The Middle Ages

Asterleigh's earliest known rector (instituted before 1219) was James de Solariis, whom the bishop ordered to study singing. His successor Roger de Munvirun was admitted in minor orders in 1220–1, to be followed by Hugh de Wythindune, chaplain, only four or five years later.³⁶ Hugh was involved in a local land dispute in 1231, when he called on the lord and patron Ralph de Saussay to give warranty.³⁷

Another 15 rectors of Asterleigh are known before the parishes' unification in 1466, though with some gaps.³⁸ One at least was a local man who had previously served Kiddington,³⁹ while another acted as a trustee for the lord in 1357 and remained until his death in 1375.⁴⁰ Only one other incumbent is definitely known to have stayed for life, however,⁴¹ and until the 15th century few if any appear to have been university educated.⁴² Of the later graduates, Lewis Neath (resigned 1454) was also vicar of Kidlington near Oxford, where he failed to administer the sacraments regularly and claimed he could not afford an assistant.⁴³ By then Asterleigh's depopulation was presumably causing serious difficulties, and though Neath's successor Richard Bagge (or Pagge) stayed in post for six years, Robert Caynell (1460–3), Ralph Dalton (1463–5), and Walter Bate (1465–6) resigned after much shorter periods.⁴⁴ The last rector (Richard Wood) was instituted in June 1466, mere months before the benefices' unification, when there were said to be insufficient tithes and offerings to support a rector or parochial chaplain.⁴⁵

Kiddington's first known rector Walter de Toriton (presented before 1219) had to be re-examined in music and psalm-singing before being admitted, and was presumably required to undertake further study, since a vicar was temporarily appointed receiving four

³⁶ *Rot. Welles*, I, 23–4; II, 5, 20.

³⁷ *Cur. Reg.* XIV, p. 349 (Hugh the chaplain of 'Stradlegh').

³⁸ For an outline list (with refs), Warton, *Kiddington* (1815 edn), 28–31.

³⁹ Andr. at Green (inst. 1335) of Barton Ede (Steeple Barton): *Reg. Burghersh*, II, pp. 86–7; III, p. 42; below.

⁴⁰ Wm de Brendmille: *Cal. Inq. p.m.* XIII, p. 125; Lincs. Arch. REG/10, f. 363v.

⁴¹ Ric. Payn (d. 1335): *Reg. Burghersh*, II, p. 86. Several others resigned and in 1419 one exchanged the benefice: Lincs. Arch. REG/14, f. 402; REG/17, f. 63; REG/20, f. 231; below.

⁴² Possible exceptions incl. John de St Giles (inst. 1262) and Ric. Payn (d. 1335): *Rot. Gravesend*, 215; *Reg. Burghersh*, II, p. 86; Emden, *OU Reg. to 1500*, III, 1443, 1626.

⁴³ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, f. 231; Emden, *OU Reg. to 1540*, II, 1340; *VCH Oxon.* XII, 207.

⁴⁴ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, ff. 231, 237v., 239v., 241, 242v.; Emden, *OU Reg. to 1540*, I, 129–30, 376, 537. Dalton was a fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Bate and Caynell were canon lawyers.

⁴⁵ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, ff. 82v.–83v., 242v. Wood went on to serve Kiddington: below.

marks a year.⁴⁶ Of Walter's successors, Robert le Warr' (instituted in 1232/3) was also required to attend the schools, but remained until his death c.1272; he apparently resided, since that year he was accused of receiving poached venison at the rectory house.⁴⁷ Hugh de Williamscot (1272–1307) was a relative of the lord and patron and stayed for life, holding a free yardland in Kiddington in his own right,⁴⁸ while Hugh Welbode or Wylbote (1361–9) came from the lord's manor of Williamscot in Wardington.⁴⁹ Some other rectors were also from the area, amongst them Robert of Bledington (instituted 1307)⁵⁰ and Andrew at Green of Steeple Barton (resigned 1335),⁵¹ while John Anger (rector 1335–61) had links with the lord of Fleet Marston (Bucks.), for whom he acted as a trustee in 1347.⁵² Many such incumbents may have resided at least part of the time, and so too may William Gobard (rector 1380–?98), who moved to Kiddington from a Herefordshire benefice. His successor John Elys (rector 1398–1434) stayed for life.⁵³

Thereafter shorter incumbencies became more common, James Jordan (1457–8) dying in post and Robert Draper (1458–61), Thomas Kynxley (1461–3), and possibly Thomas Coman (1463–?66) all resigning after relatively brief tenures.⁵⁴ Draper, the first clearly identified graduate, held an Essex benefice in plurality, and moved on to a succession of other livings.⁵⁵ The pattern was broken by Richard Wood, who served the newly united parish of Kiddington and Asterleigh from 1466 until his death in 1493 and was followed by four other long-serving rectors, Walter Goodyer (1493–1507), George Suthwerth (1507–20), Peter Chawry (1520–35), and Henry Hasilwood (1535–?43).⁵⁶ Goodyer was an Oriel College fellow who held Middleton Stoney in plurality, though on his death in 1513 he was commemorated by a brass in Kiddington church, suggesting close ties.⁵⁷ Suthwerth, another pluralist, apparently lived elsewhere, leaving the rectory house and chancel in disrepair,⁵⁸ but Chawry and Hasilwood employed curates and may have resided, Hasilwood witnessing a local land grant in 1536.⁵⁹

⁴⁶ *Rot. Welles*, I, 22–3, 42–3. For a full list to 1535 (with refs), see 'Lists of medieval incumbents of Oxon. parishes compiled for the Oxon. VCH': typescript in Bodl. R. Top. 725 [MS Top. Oxon. d 460].

⁴⁷ *Rot. Welles*, II, 41; *Rot. Gravesend*, 224; Schumer, *Oxon. Forests*, p. 67.

⁴⁸ *Rot. Gravesend*, 224; Lincs. Arch. REG/2, f. 153v.; *Rot. Hund.* II, 852 (wrongly listed under Combe).

⁴⁹ Lincs. Arch. REG/9, f. 277; REG/10, f. 346v.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* REG/2, f. 153v. (presumably Bledington, Glos.).

⁵¹ *Reg. Burghersh*, III, p. 42. Green later served Asterleigh: *ibid.* II, pp. 86–7.

⁵² *Ibid.* II, p. 87; Lincs. Arch. REG/, f. 277; *Black Prince's Reg.* I, 90.

⁵³ Lincs. Arch. REG/10, f. 373; REG/13, f. 315v.; REG/17, f. 62v.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.* REG/20, ff. 233 and v., 235v., 237v., 239v., 243.

⁵⁵ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1540*, I, 592 (confusing Kiddington with Cuddington, Bucks.).

⁵⁶ Lincs. Arch. REG/20, f. 243; REG/22, f. 232v.; REG/25, f. 49; REG/27, f. 193v.; Emden, *OU Reg. to 1540*, II, 791.

⁵⁷ Emden, *OU Reg. to 1540*, II, 791; below (ch. archit.).

⁵⁸ *Cal. Papal Reg. XVIII*, p. 567; *Visit. Dioc. Linc.* I, 129–30.

⁵⁹ *Subsidy 1526*, 266; *Valor Eccl.* II, 184; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.168; *ibid.* M2/D/33. Hasilwood was presumably related to Thos Babington's wife Mgt Hasilwood and the Kiddington tenant Edm.



Part of a brass commemorating
Walter Goodyer (d.1513),
rector of Kiddington 1493–1507

Lay and possibly lordly involvement is suggested by the church's high-quality 14th-century rebuilding, the south chapel (which was later associated with the manor) perhaps accommodating an unrecorded chantry.⁶⁰ Land for holy bread or a light was given at an unknown date, and bequests to the high altar, torches, rood light, and bells continued in the early 1540s, when one parishioner arranged for a priest to say masses for his soul for a year and a half.⁶¹ An anchoress was mentioned in the 1230s, when her uncle gave a 3s. rent in Oxford towards her sustenance.⁶²

The Reformation to c.1820

The Anglican Church Morgan Phillips (rector 1543–59), a native of Monmouthshire, was made principal of St Mary Hall in Oxford in 1545 and precentor of St David's Cathedral (Pembrokeshire) in 1554, and in the 1550s employed a curate. He nevertheless witnessed some Kiddington wills in 1556–7, acting as overseer for one, and oversaw an exchange of glebe with the lord and patron Sir William Babington. His adherence to Catholicism forced his resignation on Elizabeth I's accession, and he fled abroad soon after, becoming joint founder of the English College at Douai (then Flanders).⁶³

Catholic recusancy remained a feature of Kiddington's religious life into the early 19th century, encouraged directly or indirectly by its Catholic lords and patrons. By the 1570s the bulk of the population apparently conformed, however,⁶⁴ and Phillips' successors as rector seem to have all been orthodox Anglicans,⁶⁵ notwithstanding John Harrison (rector 1560–?81) acting as overseer in 1562 for a will containing distinctly Catholic invocations.⁶⁶ Thomas Hancorne (rector 1581–1609), although 'no preacher', stayed for life and regularly witnessed

Hasilwood: Burke, *Commoners*, IV (1838 edn), 514; I.S. Leadam (ed.), *Domesday of Inclosures 1517–18* (1897), I, 371.

⁶⁰ Below (Reformn to 1823; church archit.). No evidence has been found for a Holy Trinity guild alluded to in Warton, *Kiddington* (1815 edn), 9n.

⁶¹ *Cal. Pat.* 1566–9, p. 225; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 178.168.

⁶² *Oseney Cart.* II, p. 483 (*Cudintonam*).

⁶³ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; *ODNB*, s.v. Phillips, Morgan (d. 1570) (both accessed July 2024); OHC, MSS Wills Oxon. 181.53; 181.198; 182.43; 183.178; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. b 41, no. 12d verso (glebe exchange).

⁶⁴ Below (Rom. Cath.).

⁶⁵ For rectors 1540–1823, <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk> (accessed July 2024).

⁶⁶ OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 184.53. For a curate in 1577 (John Harte), *ibid.* 185.532.

parishioners' wills,⁶⁷ and though the next four years saw more rapid turnover and a patronage dispute, Lewis Bowen (rector 1613–39) also remained until his death, holding neighbouring Steeple Barton in plurality, employing a curate, and engaging in farming.⁶⁸ His successor Edward Plant (like Bowen an Oxford graduate) probably also resided, but was apparently ejected in 1657 and replaced by John Kinge (d. 1665).⁶⁹ A new bell was installed in 1629,⁷⁰ and despite their Catholicism the Browne family invested in the church fabric, Henry Browne (d. 1639) leaving £40 for a monument in the south chapel, which he claimed as appurtenant to his house and lordship.⁷¹

The later 17th century and the 18th saw some long incumbencies. Jonathan Edwards (rector 1666–87), a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, was a High Church Anglican Tory and controversialist who resigned Kiddington on becoming college head and treasurer of Llandaff cathedral; he was probably mostly non-resident, but witnessed a will in 1670, answered enquiries about Catholicism in the parish, and in 1686 made an agreement with the lord over glebe and tithes.⁷² The long-serving John Cudworth (1687–1729) held a prebend in Chichester cathedral but lived in Kiddington, where he ran a school and was eventually buried, being remembered fifty years later for his 'punctual and conscientious discharge of [his] duty'. In 1688 he was one of numerous clergy who refused to read James II's reissued Declaration for Liberty of Conscience in church, and later preached a sermon in defence of the Anglican faith in the university church in Oxford.⁷³ Robert Buswell (1730–60) also resided and served the cure alone, holding two Sunday services with one sermon, administering the sacrament three times a year to c.20 communicants, catechising at Lent, and reading prayers 'on several holy days, but not on all for want of a congregation'. A new bell was acquired in 1757, and Buswell challenged growing Catholicism in the parish by distributing polemical tracts, requesting the bishop to replenish his stock.⁷⁴

Later 18th-century rectors were mostly non-resident. Jeremiah Nicholson (1760–71) lived at his Reading benefice and employed a curate based in Charlbury, preaching at

⁶⁷ Ibid. 187.262; 188.57; 189.374 etc.; Peel, *Register*, II, 140; *Cal. Pat.* 1580–2, p. 126; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns* 1589–93, p. 36; OHC, par. reg. transcript, s.a. 1609. For church books in 1611 (including a set of homilies), OHC, par. reg. transcript, miscellanea.

⁶⁸ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; *Oxf. Ch. Ct Deposns* 1616–22, p. 67; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 115/3/6 (requesting burial at Steeple Barton or Kiddington).

⁶⁹ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 115/4/35 (witr. by Plant); *Walker Revised*, ed. Matthews, 299.

⁷⁰ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, p. 184.

⁷¹ OHC, B.I/48. It continued in use as a family mortuary chapel: below.

⁷² <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; *ODNB*, s.v. Edwards, Jonathan (1638/9–1712); *Bp Fell and Nonconf.* 33, 35; OHC, MS Wills Oxon. 78/2/22; *ibid.* QSD/E/I, pp. 103–4.

⁷³ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 9–10; *Wood's Life*, III, 267; OHC, PAR150/17/MS1/1; *ibid.* par. reg. transcript, burial 30 Nov. 1729.

⁷⁴ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; *Secker's Visit.* 88–9; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, ff. 65–8; *ibid.* MS Wills Oxon. 118/2/43; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* p. 184; memorial in church.

Kiddington occasionally, while the poet and scholar Thomas Warton (rector 1771–90), made poet laureate in 1785, lived at Trinity College, Oxford, publishing a thorough history of Kiddington in 1783 but serving it through substitutes. John Roberts (1790–1821) lived chiefly on his Welsh benefice despite rebuilding Kiddington rectory house.⁷⁵ Some continuity was provided by their curates, W.F. Mavor of Woodstock substituting for both Warton and Roberts (though not always in person),⁷⁶ while Mavor's successor Nicholas Marshall (later Marshall Hacker, d. 1827), who initially lived in Enstone, himself became rector from 1821 to 1823.⁷⁷ Communion was held four times a year by 1774, and though Sunday services were reduced to one c.1808–11 the earlier pattern was later reinstated. The number of communicants also recovered from an earlier fall.⁷⁸ No Protestant Nonconformity was noted until c.1820 when a Baptist farming family moved into the parish, joined by another before 1823.⁷⁹



Church memorial to Robert Buswell (rector 1730-60) and his family

Both church and chancel were generally kept in good repair, and the Brownes and Browne-Mostyns continued to use the south chapel and its under-floor vault as a mortuary chapel.⁸⁰ Edward Gore, the lord through marriage, donated a bible and a silver chalice and paten cover in 1770–1, as well as providing an altarpiece incorporating a picture of the Crucifixion which he and his wife (the Catholic Lady Mostyn) had donated a few years earlier. The parishioners gave a pulpit and reading desk around the same time, those

⁷⁵ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; Oxf. Jnl Syn. 19 July 1771; *ODNB*, s.v. Warton, Thos (1728–90); D. Fairer (ed.), *The Correspondence of Thomas Warton* (1995), pp. 310–11, 320, 493, 589, 593, 644–5 (incl. haphazard payment of curates' fees); OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 559, f. 73; d 564, f. 247; d 566, f. 198; d 578, f. 146; c 661, ff. 82–4; above (rectory ho.).

⁷⁶ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 566, f. 198; d 568, f. 204; *ODNB*, s.v. Mavor, William Fordyce (1758–1837).

⁷⁷ <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk>; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 570, f. 180; d 572, f. 184; d 574, f. 165; d 578, f. 146; c 661, ff. 82–4; *Bury and Norwich Post*, 21 Mar. 1827. Resident by 1814 and known as Marshall Hacker by 1820.

⁷⁸ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 564, f. 247; d 570, f. 180; d 572, f. 184; d 574, f. 165; d 580, f. 152.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.* d 578, f. 146; d 580, f. 152.

⁸⁰ OHC, MS Oxf. Archd. Oxon. c 79, ff. 248–89; below (church archit.).

additions being presumably the 'new improvements and ornaments' mentioned in 1783.⁸¹

The prevalence of requests for burial within the church led to a 30s. charge being introduced in 1791, apparently partly as a deterrent.⁸²

Roman Catholicism None of the Babington lords of Kiddington were recusants, and their wills show no open Catholic leanings. The family nevertheless had strong Catholic connections, and Sir William Babington's widow Margary became a noted recusant after his death in 1577, harbouring Edmund Campion in her houses in Oxford and London, and evading the authorities 'with consummate skill' by exploiting her possession of property in several counties.⁸³ The family's successors the Brownes, lords from 1609, were more openly Catholic and suffered punitive fines for much of the 17th century, although proceedings against Henry and Peter Browne and their wives were halted on Charles I's orders in 1637, and the family's loyalty during the Civil War resulted in a baronetcy at the Restoration. Earlier in the century they seem to have kept a relatively low profile, conforming so far as necessary and only rarely appearing as convicted recusants.⁸⁴ As early as the 1630s they seem to have clandestinely maintained a Roman Catholic priest at the manor house, and the pattern continued throughout the 18th century when a private chapel there served not only the Brownes' household but the wider Catholic community, both in Kiddington and beyond.⁸⁵ Known priests included (probably) the Carmelite Christopher Leigh or Lee (d. 1641), the Benedictines Robert Sherwood (d. 1665) and Richard Reeve (d. 1693), and the Jesuits Francis Gibson (1724–38) and John Jackson (c.1750), followed from 1788 by Samuel Rock (d. 1839), who lived at nearby Radford in Enstone. Rock helped plan a new purpose-built chapel at Radford shortly before his death, the sale of Kiddington Hall having created the need for replacement premises, and the transplanted mission continued at Radford into the

⁸¹ OHC, par. reg. transcript, miscellanea; Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 93; Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 3, 5. Gore seems not to have been overtly Catholic, and took communion: OHC, Cal. QS, IV, p. 281.

⁸² OHC, par. reg. transcript, miscellanea.

⁸³ Davidson, 'Cath. Oxon.', 150–8, 310; TNA, PROB 11/41/228; PROB 11/60/46; H.E. Salter, 'Oxon. Recusants', *OAS Rep.* (1924), 22.

⁸⁴ Davidson, 'Cath. Oxon.', 90–8, 310, 581–2; *Cal. SP Dom.* 1636–7, 407–8; *Prot. Retns*, 130, 148; OHC, B.IV/1–8; B.IV/9–12; above, landownership; social hist.

⁸⁵ Davidson, 'Cath. Oxon.', 427, 429–30; *Secker's Visit.* 88; OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, f. 65v.; d 559, f. 73; *ibid.* Cal. QS, VIII, p. 813; below.

20th century.⁸⁶ A Catholic schoolmaster was teaching at Kiddington in 1759, but ceased that year.⁸⁷

Wider adherence to Catholicism within the parish may have initially been quite limited, with only a couple of wills containing Catholic formulae after 1558,⁸⁸ and just a handful of people (including several members of the Mudd family of yeomen) fined in the early 17th century.⁸⁹ Five of Peter Browne's servants were noted in 1642 and a total of nine Catholics in 1676,⁹⁰ increased to 16 by 1683 and to over 30 (including children) in 1706, amongst them the families of a victualler, carpenter, mason, and tailor.⁹¹ By mid century there were 47 Catholics (compared with 130 Protestants) drawn from 20 families, excluding Lady Mostyn (née Browne), her two sons, and 14 servants. Most of those listed still seem to have been the families of craftsmen or cottagers, the increase presumably reflecting the Brownes' control of the housing stock as well as the gradual easing of restrictions.⁹² Thereafter numbers in Kiddington itself seem to have slowly fallen off, with c.50 Catholics estimated in 1768, 40 (still a fifth of the population) in 1808, and 30 in 1823,⁹³ although the chapel's baptism book (extant from 1788) shows that it also catered for surrounding places including Enstone and its hamlets, the Bartons, Little Compton, Charlbury, Deddington, Tackley, and Bloxham.⁹⁴ Following the Browne Mostyns' departure and the mission's transfer Kiddington's remaining Catholics presumably attended the Radford chapel, and Catholicism was not expressly mentioned by any later 19th-century rectors.⁹⁵

Since c.1820

Kiddington had resident rectors for the rest of the 19th century, the Irishman J.G. Browne (instituted in 1823) remaining until his death in 1877. Judged 'good natured, hot headed,

⁸⁶ Davidson, 'Cath. Oxon.', 427, 429–30; *ODNB*, s.v. Reeve, Ric. (1642–93); B. Stapleton, 'Catholic Regs. of the Domestic Chapel of the Browne-Mostyn Family at Kiddington, 1788–1840', *Miscellanea X* (Cath. Rec. Soc. 17, 1915), 458–60; *HMC 10th Rep. App. IV*, 184, 189, 198; T. Hadland (ed.), *From Country House Catholicism to City Church: The Registers of the Oxford Catholic Mission 1700–1875* (ORS 75, 2023), 191; above, Enstone, relig. hist. The Radford chapel (designed by A.W.N. Pugin) opened in Jan. 1841.

⁸⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, ff. 65–8.

⁸⁸ Ibid. MSS Wills Oxon. 184.53; 185.532; for earlier examples, *ibid.* 178.168; 181.198; 182.174.

⁸⁹ Davidson, 'Cath. Oxon.', 310; Salter, 'Oxon. Recusants', 20, 31–2, 38, 40, 45–6, 52–3.

⁹⁰ *Prot. Retns.* 130, 148; *Compton Census*, ed. Whiteman, 422 (noting 70 'conformists').

⁹¹ *Bp Fell and Nonconf.* 38; W.O. Hassall, 'Papists in Early 18th-Cent. Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia* 13 (1948), 80; OHC, Cal QS, IX, pp. 399–400, 405; *ibid.* BOR4/3/1/A4/1. The Brownes and their servants accounted for a further seven in 1706.

⁹² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 101, f. 80 (giving names); cf. OHC, par. reg. transcripts, where Catholics were often listed as 'born' rather than 'baptized'. For social background, *ibid.* QSD/E/I, pp. 230–4; *ibid.* MS Oxf. Dioc. d 556, f. 65v.; *Secker's Visit.* 88.

⁹³ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. d 559, f. 73; d 570, f. 180; d 578, f. 146; d 580, f. 152.

⁹⁴ Stapleton, 'Cath. Regs. Kiddington', 461–78.

⁹⁵ There were no Catholics in 1918: *Gore's Visit.* 457.

[and] ultra Low Church' by Bishop Wilberforce, he had a 'multitude of quarrels' with the incoming lord Mortimer Ricardo, including the legal dispute over Asterleigh's titheability and, in the 1850s, over Ricardo's restoration of the church. Ricardo appealed regularly to the bishop, who seems to have had some sympathy, referring to him as 'poor Squire Ricardo'. Support for the church continued under Ricardo's successor Henry Lomax Gaskell, whom the bishop found a 'pleasing right-minded man'.⁹⁶ Browne maintained two Sunday services (with sermons) and a monthly communion throughout, attracting a 'stationary' or 'fluctuating' congregation of c.80–100, and up to 25 communicants at great festivals. A newly established Sunday school had c.57 children in 1831 and 38 in 1866.⁹⁷ A short-lived Primitive Methodist meeting was established by 1851 when it reportedly attracted an evening congregation of 74, the prayer leader living in Over Kiddington. It continued 'in different houses' in 1854 but was not mentioned later, and in 1866 Browne claimed there were 'under ten' Dissenters in the parish.⁹⁸

A similar pattern continued under T.F. Burra (rector 1877–86) and C.J. Hawkins (1886–1903), who introduced fortnightly and (later) weekly communions and continued the Sunday school, Burra also extending the rectory house and briefly appointing an assistant curate. The treble bell was recast in 1875 and the gear renewed, and an organ was installed in 1880 alongside other improvements, while attendance remained 'normal' with 'very few' Dissenters.⁹⁹ Following two shorter incumbencies A.F. Bellman remained from 1909 to 1921, complaining in 1918 of the 'deadening' effect of Sunday labour (for which he thought there was 'no remedy'), and retiring through old age and infirmity with a £75 pension from the benefice, despite an apparently tricky relationship with the patron Viscount Dillon.¹⁰⁰ The Gaskells, meanwhile, continued to support the church, giving a private communion set in memory of H.B. Gaskell in 1908, acting as churchwardens, and funding other church improvements.¹⁰¹ A Girls' Friendly Society and Mothers' Union were mentioned in 1914.¹⁰²

There followed some further short incumbencies before R.P. Norwood (who wrote a brief history of the parish) arrived in 1927, followed by StJohn Guy Maule Vernon (1939–53).¹⁰³ Thereafter Kiddington was held with nearby Wootton, where the joint incumbents

⁹⁶ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, ff. 124–5; c 1872, presentn 1877; *Wilb. Dioc. Bks*, 22, 210; *Wilb. Letter Bks*, pp. 258–9; TNA, RG 9/902; above (endowment).

⁹⁷ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, ff. 124–5; c 332, f. 254; *Ch. and Chapel*, 1851, p. 56; *Wilb. Visit.* 81–2.

⁹⁸ *Ch. and Chapel*, 1851, p. 56; *Wilb. Visit.* 81–2; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 332, f. 254.

⁹⁹ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, presentations; c 344, ff. 235–6; c 350, ff. 227–8; c 362, ff. 233–4; c 365, ff. 226–7; c 368, ff. 221–2; *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, p. 184; above (rectory ho.); below (church archit.).

¹⁰⁰ OHC, MSS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, presentations; c 1873, resignation pps; *Gore's Visit.* 457.

¹⁰¹ Evans, *Ch. Plate*, 93; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, faculties; below (church archit.).

¹⁰² *Gore's Visit.* 196–7.

¹⁰³ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, presentations; R.P. Norwood, *A Squirearchy for more than Six Hundred Years: A Brief History of Kiddington* (1934).

lived. Bladon was briefly included in 1985–8, and neighbouring Glympton from 1988, before the benefices of Glympton, Wootton and Kiddington were united in 1990 and their ecclesiastical parishes in 2003.¹⁰⁴ In 2024 there were monthly morning services at Kiddington, accompanied by the organ; attendances averaged 15–25, drawn particularly from Nether Kiddington, with 40 attending a recent harvest festival. The united parish as a whole aimed to be welcoming and inclusive, with music of various kinds playing a significant role in all three churches, and at Kiddington there were aspirations to provide more flexible facilities within the building.¹⁰⁵ Including Glympton c.43 per cent of the population then identified as Christian, compared with over half of no religion or unspecified, and c.4 per cent (around 7 people) Hindu or Buddhist.¹⁰⁶

Church Architecture



Kiddington church from the south-east, showing the south chapel and the 19th-century chancel and apse (the latter constructed on Norman footings). The tracery in the south chapel's south window is also a 19th-century replacement.

The church stands immediately north of Kiddington Hall, accessed via the house's main driveway. Medium-sized and built of squared and coursed limestone with ashlar dressings, it comprises a rebuilt chancel incorporating 12th-century remnants, a 14th-century aisleless nave with a transeptal south chapel and abutting stone porch, a 14th-century squat west tower with two low upper stages, and a 19th-century north vestry.¹⁰⁷ The chancel's 19th-century rounded apse was built on surviving Norman footings, suggesting that in its original form the church may have looked much like the small surviving building at Swyncombe.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ *Crockford's Clerical Dir.* (1955–6), 992, 1539; (1963–4), 949; (1975–6), 772, 1201; (1989–90), 52, 175; OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. Orders in Council 7 June 1990, 27 Feb. 2003.

¹⁰⁵ www.glymechurches.org (accessed May 2024); 'Parish Profile: The Parish of Wootton, Glympton and Kiddington' [c.1924] (PDF accessed online May 2024); below (church archit.).

¹⁰⁶ Census, 2021 (online datasets); figures for Kiddington alone are unavailable.

¹⁰⁷ For descriptions: Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 2–6; J.H. Parker, *A Guide to the Archit. Antiqs in the Neighbourhood of Oxford* (1846), 125–30; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 378–9; NHLE, no. 1198490 (accessed Dec. 2023). Illustrated before 19th-cent. restorations in Bodl. MS Don. c 91, f. 185; *ibid.* Dep. d 145, f. 6; *ibid.* MS Top. Oxon. a 67, ff. 353–4.

¹⁰⁸ For Swyncombe, *VCH Oxon.* XVIII, 389–90.

Visible 12th-century remains include carved corbel heads under the chancel's external eaves, and the original chancel arch (now the opening to the apse) with its furrowed chevron decoration, its north shaft octagonal, and the south shaft circular with a carved capital. More corbel heads survive reset in the vestry. The rest of the church appears to have been rebuilt during the 14th century, possibly all in one phase, and includes a replacement chancel arch to the west of the first, the chancel having been extended westwards. Surviving medieval windows are in Decorated style under square heads, that west of the porch featuring particularly fine flowing tracery, while high in the nave's west wall (flanking the tower) are two unusual triangular windows with internal cusping.¹⁰⁹ An internal stringcourse with ballflower decoration, running around the south chapel and over its south doorway, extends beyond the responds of the chapel's entrance arch onto the new chancel arch. Two trefoil-headed piscinae survive in unusual positions, one low down on the north respond of the chancel arch, and another almost opposite, while the south chapel retains a double piscina with ogee-trefoiled arches in its south wall, and two image brackets on the east.¹¹⁰ Steps cut into the wall beneath the nave's north-east window led presumably to the rood loft, for which two slots remain on the underside of the chancel arch, while part of the rood screen survived in the 1840s.¹¹¹ The hexagonal font, which features elaborate blind Decorated tracery panels and ballflower, is probably contemporary with the rebuilding. The



The church interior, looking east to the 14th-century chancel arch and its rounded Norman predecessor beyond.

Norman apse was demolished around the same time or perhaps a little later, and was replaced by a square east end lit by a two-light 14th- or 15th-century window, the original chancel arch being embedded in the new east wall. The chancel nevertheless retained its earlier steep-pitched roof, in contrast to the nave.¹¹² A surviving saunce bell may be 15th-

¹⁰⁹ Tracery in the S chapel's S window is 19th-cent.: below.

¹¹⁰ For bequests to lights, above (relig. life: Middle Ages).

¹¹¹ Parker, *Guide*, 127.

¹¹² Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 354; Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 3; Parker, *Guide*, 125.

century, and fragments of probably medieval glass survive in the nave's small west windows.¹¹³

The vault under the south chapel is undated, but existed by the 1630s when Henry Browne adopted the chapel as a family burial place.¹¹⁴ Two elaborate stone and marble wall memorials to family members were erected in the chapel c.1770, the larger surmounted by a broken pediment and urn, and the smaller (to two children) with a curved head and decorative scrolls.¹¹⁵ The chapel's south window had by then been replaced by a plain mullioned and transomed window, and had lost its former heraldic glass, while the chapel's south door was blocked.¹¹⁶ An additional large mural monument (commemorating the rector Robert Buswell and his family) was erected in the chancel c.1760.



The south chapel, with a continuous band of ballflower decoration running around it, and a double piscina in its south wall. The Browne family vault lies beneath.

In 1831 the chancel was 'in as good repair as can be without being rebuilt'.¹¹⁷ It was reconstructed in 1845 to designs by Giles Gilbert Scott, who added the curved apse with its three 12th-century-style windows, and reset a trefoil-headed lancet in the south wall. The tracery of a larger two-light window which the lancet replaced was subsequently used to create two internal sedilia.¹¹⁸ All or part of the chancel work was funded by Mortimer Ricardo, who soon afterwards replaced the seating in the south chapel and probably installed the present Decorated tracery in the chapel's south window. Refitting of the nave (again promoted by Ricardo) followed in 1853, when the floor was raised, new open pews were

¹¹³ *Ch. Bells Oxon.* II, p. 185; Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 5; NHLE, no. 1198490.

¹¹⁴ OHC, B.I/48; above (Reformn to c.1820).

¹¹⁵ For inscriptions, Warton, *Kiddington* (1815 edn), 9–10.

¹¹⁶ Warton, *Kiddington* (1783 edn), 2.

¹¹⁷ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. b 38, f. 124v.

¹¹⁸ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 378–9. The lancet was formerly set much lower down at the chancel's west end, with a seat beneath it: Parker, *Guide*, 125; Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. a 67, f. 354.

installed to designs by H.J. Underwood (d. 1852), and a new pulpit, reading desk and bible desk were fitted to designs by G.E. Street. All the roofs were renewed, and monuments and memorials (including the 16th-century brass to the rector Walter Goodyer) were reset.¹¹⁹ The chancel was further restored in 1879–80 by the architect George Somers Clarke, who added the north vestry and an adjoining organ chamber. The organ itself (restored in 1983) is by Charles Martin of Oxford, its case painted by C.E. Kempe.¹²⁰ Stained glass commemorating members of the Gaskell family (by Clayton & Bell) was installed in the south chapel and apse c.1872 and 1879, with glass by Kempe added in the tower, west end, and nave in 1886 and 1890.¹²¹



*The organ (left),
and part of the
oak reredos of
1901.*

Most later changes were cosmetic or restorative. A Perpendicular-style oak chancel screen was fitted in 1897 and an oak reredos with two tall carved angels in 1901 (both by Hems & Sons of Exeter), followed by a new oak communion table and new sanctuary paving in 1906. A carved stone mural memorial to H.B. Gaskell (d. 1907) in the south chapel incorporates a ballflower border copied from the chapel's medieval decoration, while the lychgate with its open timbered roof is another Gaskell family memorial, erected in 1911–12. A stone war memorial plaque in the nave (also with ballflower) proved controversial after H.M. Gaskell insisted on including the names of those who had served but not died, contrary to diocesan rules. Electric lighting and new heating were installed in 1954, and general

¹¹⁹ OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, 11 Feb. 1853; *Wilb. Letter Bks*, pp. 258–9. For the brass (formerly in the floor near the main door), *Par. Colln*, II, 187; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 379; in 2024 the inscription was on the wall by the S door but the figure propped on the former rood stairs.

¹²⁰ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 379; for the organ, www.glymechurches.org (accessed May 2024); OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, pps Nov. 1983.

¹²¹ Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 379; *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1895 edn).

repairs were carried out in 1963 and 1983, when a 'steady decline' in the building's condition was reported.¹²² In 2024 c.£250,000 was being sought for urgent repairs, including to the south chapel, whose floor was badly sunk over the burial vault below. Nevertheless there were hopes of providing a servery and WC and a 'flexible fellowship area'.¹²³

¹²² OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1872, faculty pps; Brooks, *Pevsner N&W*, 379. The screen commemorated Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee: *Kelly's Dir. Oxon.* (1907 edn). For a bequest towards churchyard maintenance, OHC, MS Oxf. Dioc. c 1873 (corresp. 1954).

¹²³ Appeal in church porch (June 2024).